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ALICIA VIKANDER BLINDS WITH SCIENCE

THE "EX MACHINA" STAR PLAYS A ROBOT. PAGE 17

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Monday, April 20, 2015 www.m f: MetroNewYork

Beats in the Bronx

Tourism. There's much more to this city than the Empire State Building and Times Square. New Yorkers know this, but tourists need a reminder. That's why Hush Hip Hop Tours is showing visitors the beauty of the Bronx. PAGE 02

Grandmaster Caz leads a hip-hop tour of the Bronx and Harlem through Hush Tours. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Audit shows poor animal shelter conditions

PAGE 04

EU calls for talks after migrant drownings

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Top 3

The best of Metro.us

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2 'Winners of "The Voice": Where are they now?'

3 'Jets say they haven't given up on Geno Smith, he'll compete to start'

Get the latest

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Bronx ready to be next big tourist destination

Tourism. Hush Hip Hop Tours is taking music-loving visitors off New York City's beaten path.

Hush Hip Hop Tours offers New York City tourists a more colorful view of the city. / BESS ADLER, METRO

The Bronx is booming.

At least three days a week, Grandmaster Caz boards a small bus packed full of foreigners and introduces them to the sights and sounds of the Bronx.

Especially the sounds. Caz, while taking his group through the historic corners of the borough, raps to a captive audience along the way, many of them decked out in New York T-shirts and Yankee snapbacks.

"The whole point of this tour was to help increase tourism in the Bronx," Caz said. "Every place in New York showcases something, Broadway celebrates dance and plays. The Bronx is the birthplace of hip-hop, and the world has to know, and New York has to advertise it."

Caz, a Bronx native, recording artist and old-school MC in his own right, has been a hip-hop ambassador for the last 13 years as a guide with Hush Hip Hop Tours. Caz introduces tourists, from New York and beyond, to a borough that lacks the Empire State Building and Statue of Liberty, but is a holy grail for hip-hop enthusiasts.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we're now headed to the birthplace of hip-hop, 1520 Sedgwick Ave. But we can't go like this, it's way too quiet on this bus right now? Are you ready to turn it up? Tell the sound man to turn it up," Caz tells the enthusiastic riders before his rendition of Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five's "The Message."

The passengers say "ho" to his "hey" on the way to the apartment building that overlooks the Major Deegan Expressway in the West Bronx, where DJ Kool Herc, who is credited with starting the genre, held the world's first hip-hop party in August 1973.

In between Caz's renditions of old-school standards, as well as his own verses, the bus swings by murals, including one on the Grand Concourse outside the Andrew Freedman home, and to Caz's Bronx Walk of Fame spot.

The tour ends in Harlem with a trip to Big L's memorial mural at the corner of Malcolm X Boulevard and West 140th Street before a soul food buffet lunch at Manna's.

"Hip-hop is one of the most universal things going on on the planet right now, one of the most positive, and I think its appeal remains intact," Caz said. "I think people are at a different time in hip-hop when they want to learn about where it comes from, and that's basically what we do."

Move over, Times Square

Tourism in the Bronx is up 14 percent, according to Fred Dixon, president and CEO of NYC & Company.

- Last year, 56.4 million people visited New York City, and the city is on track to see 67 million visitors by 2021.
- The Bronx Tourism Council put out their first visitor's guide to the borough in 2015, and NYC & Company is forming a tourism committee to help Bronx businesses and attractions promote themselves to the tourists.

Quoted

Tourists in their own words

"I've been listening to hip-hop music since I was 6 years old. I'm 33 now, and I've always wanted to come to New York, and of course I had to do a hip-hop tour," said Ryan Langbien, who was visiting for the first time from Sydney, Australia. "It was awesome, being right there where Big L's mural is."

"We probably wouldn't have come here unless we went on the tour," said Gwen Jones-Libens, who was visiting from Great Britain. "We probably wouldn't have taken the train up."

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
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Audit. Probe reveals poor conditions at city animal shelters

An audit released Sunday by City Comptroller Scott Stringer found animals at overcrowded Animal Care & Control shelters were being given expired medications and subject to poor living conditions.

AC&C has a five-year, $51.9 million contract with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to shelter and care for animals in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island, and run drop-off centers in Queens and the Bronx.

The four-month audit between December 2013 and March 2014 found animals were given expired controlled substances. According to the audit, shelters did not keep accurate records of controlled substances, and drugs as old as 13 years were found in the facilities.

Auditors also found vaccinations were stored alongside employee lunches, and animal remains, though vaccines are supposed to be stored separately from food.

A dog named Cody at the New York Animal Care & Control
GETTY IMAGES

More than $12,000 in undocumented credit card expenses as well as $18,000 in late payments were found.

"Animal Care & Control is running an operation that could make your stomach turn," Stringer said. **WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE**

Persian pride on parade

Performers in the New York City Persian Parade march down Madison Avenue from 38th Street to 26th Street yesterday. The event, which is in its 12th year, is the largest Persian parade in the world. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Crime. Shootings, violence, spike over picturesque weekend

Nine people were reportedly shot in six shootings in Brooklyn and the Bronx in a Saturday night crime wave, but none fatally, the Daily News reported.

A police spokeswoman said the total number of shootings would not be available until Monday morning.

In Queens, a man was stabbed to death early Sunday. Officers found Otto Emilio Ajpacaja-Cua, 39, stabbed in the chest and thigh around 4:25 a.m. at the corner of 184th Street and Jamaica Avenue. He was pronounced dead at Jamaica Hospital.

On Friday, a shooting outside a Bed-Stuy housing project left one teen dead and another injured.

Dontea (Ted) Bascom, 16, was shot in the groin around 7:15 p.m. on Friday and later died at Kings County Hospital.

Bascom's cousin, Michael Parnell, 13, was shot as well, but is expected to survive. **METRO**

Diplomacy

Economic leaders head to Cuba

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is traveling to Cuba today, making him the first governor to visit the island since President Barack Obama restored diplomatic ties with the country last year.

Health care, education, business and financial leaders from across the state will accompany the governor on his trade mission. **METRO**

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Oklahoma City victims remembered 20 years after bomb

Bombing. It was carried out by Timothy McVeigh, who was convicted on federal charges and executed.

This file photo shows the north side of the Albert P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, April 19, 1995. / GETTY IMAGES

Hundreds of people gathered on Sunday at the site of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing to remember the 168 men, women and children killed when a truck stuffed with tons of explosives blew up at a downtown federal building.

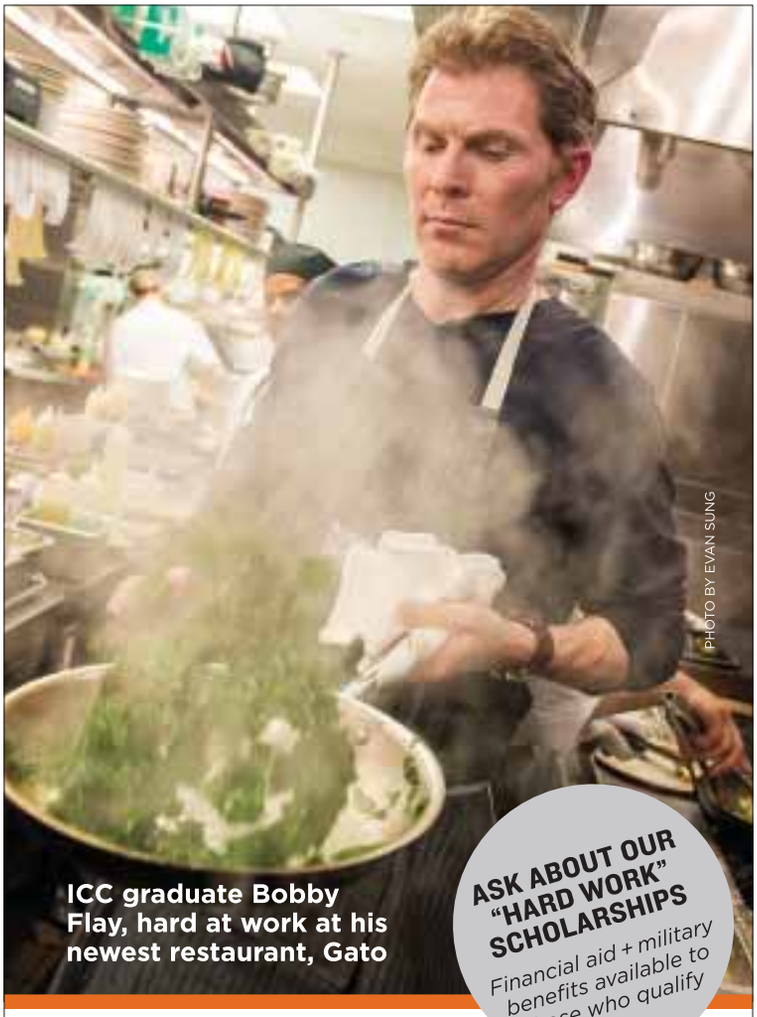
Bill Clinton was among the dignitaries who addressed the crowd outside the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

"Oklahoma City, you had to choose to redeem your terrible losses by having to begin again," said Clinton, who was in his first term in office at the time of the attack, one of the deadliest of its kind ever staged on U.S. soil.

The museum, built over the spot where the destroyed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood, includes a permanent display of 168 empty chairs, one for each person who died.

On Sunday morning, the seats were adorned with flowers, teddy bears and other mementos. The name of each victim was read aloud by relatives, coworkers and survivors.

"It was 60 minutes of terror," said Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett. "But our finest hour has lasted 20 years. This city has progressed in a manner that none of us could have foreseen." REUTERS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ICC graduate Bobby Flay, hard at work at his newest restaurant, Gato
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Five things you need to know

1 Florida man who landed at US Capitol thought he'd be intercepted

A Florida man who piloted a small gyrocopter past major Washington, D.C. landmarks last week said on Sunday he had fully expected to be intercepted before he landed on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol, creating a national security scare.

Douglas Mark Hughes, 61, a U.S. Postal Service mail carrier, described his flight upon arriving home in Ruskin, Florida, early on Sunday.

"I had expected to be intercepted on the way," he told reporters gathered outside his home.

He recalled it being colder than he had expected flying from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Washington, where the sight of the Washington Monument helped guide him to the Capitol grounds.

"People were not frightened at all," he said, noting that some of the people below waved as he flew past. "I waved back.

That part of it was surreal."

A videotape of his interview was posted on the website of the Tampa Bay Times, which chronicled his extensive preparations for a trip that Hughes intended as a protest to highlight the need for campaign finance reform.

Hughes faces up to four years in prison on charges of unlawfully operating an unregistered aircraft and violating national defense airspace.

He was allowed to return to Florida, but ordered to remain at home in detention until he is due back in Washington for a preliminary hearing on May 8.

REUTERS

2 Millionaire businessman wins Finland election

A millionaire former telecoms executive touted as a technocrat capable of rescuing Finland from economic slump won Sunday's parliamentary election, vote predictions showed, but he may need support of a Euro-skeptical populist party to form a coalition.

Forecasts by state broadcaster YLE based on 60 percent of votes showed opposition Centre Party leader Juha Sipila, who has backing of the urban middle class and rural conservatives, beating pro-Europe and pro-NATO Prime Minister Alexander Stubb.

REUTERS

JUHA SIPILA / GETTY IMAGES

3 Toddler shot in drive-by near Seattle dies

A 1-year-old girl who was shot in the head during a drive-by shooting near Seattle on Thursday died late Saturday from her wounds, hospital officials said.

Police in Kent, Washington, 20 miles south of Seattle, have not announced any arrests following the Thursday afternoon shooting near an apartment complex.

The child was strapped in a car seat in the back of her parents' car when a black car pulled alongside, and both the car's driver and passenger opened fire on the family's vehicle before driving away, police said in a statement.

She was taken to the hospital in grave condition. REUTERS

4 Tornado, damaging storms strike Southeast

Storms that damaged homes and toppled trees rolled through the U.S. Southeast on Sunday including a tornado in Alabama, and further severe weather is possible, the National Weather Service said.

The tornado was spotted at 9:30 a.m. in Henry County, in southeastern Alabama, where several rail cars were overturned, the National Weather Service said.

REUTERS

Decatur, Alabama / TWITTER

5 Heavy smoke spreading from fire near LA

Evacuation orders were lifted on Sunday for residents near a fast-moving brushfire east of Los Angeles that had threatened more than 200 homes overnight, even though heavy smoke was still menacing the area, fire department officials said.

The blaze, named the "Highway Fire," had grown to about 980 acres and was 25 percent contained, according to an afternoon update posted on the Riverside County Fire Department website.

Residents sensitive to smoke were cautioned to stay inside as windy conditions blew the haze around the Prado Dam region, about an hour's drive east of Los Angeles in drought-stricken California.

The smoke was affecting communities from Anaheim to Chino Hills and western San Bernardino County, said Captain Liz Brown of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CalFire).

REUTERS

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Loretta Lynch testifies during her Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing to become U.S. attorney general on Capitol Hill. / GETTY IMAGES

AG nominee vote likely this week: Sen. Corker

Delay. Lynch's confirmation has been pending since she was nominated last November.

A vote on the stalled Senate confirmation of the nominee to be the next U.S. attorney general, Loretta Lynch, could take place in the next two to three days, a senior Republican senator said on Sunday.

"My sense is, over the next 48 to 72 hours, that is going to be resolved, and we will move on to this Iran issue," Sen. Bob Corker, head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on CNN's "State of the Union" program.

He added that there now were an education bill and trade promotion agreements, in addition to Iran legislation, due for a vote on the Senate floor and that as a result, "this logjam … will be worked out."

For the past month, Republicans who control the Senate have delayed a confirmation vote until Senate Democrats end a filibuster, or blocking tactic, against an unrelated bill designed to protect victims of human trafficking.

Senate Democrats balked at a provision inserted in the bill by Republicans that would bar any compensation paid by convicted sex traffickers into a victim fund from being used for abortions, except in limited cases.

Republican Sen. Mike Lee, who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee and voted against Lynch when the committee endorsed her nomination in February, was less specific than Corker about the timing of a vote on her nomination. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"I think there will be a vote soon, within the next few weeks."

Republican Sen. Mike Lee, speaking Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Forensic unit

FBI: Hair-match experts gave flawed testimony

The FBI and Justice Department have acknowledged that almost all of the experts in a forensic unit dedicated to microscopic hair comparison gave flawed testimony against defendants before 2000, The Washington Post said.

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Innocence Project found that 26 of the 28 examiners in the FBI's microscopic hair comparison unit overstated evidence in more than 95 percent of 268 trials that the groups have examined so far, the Post said.

Defendants and prosecutors in 46 states, along with the District of Columbia, are being advised of the findings, which could result in appealing of convictions, the newspaper said. The cases with overstated evidence included 32 that resulted in death sentences, and 14 of those defendants have been executed or died in prison.

The Post first raised the question of flawed testimony in 1980s and 1990s trials in a story in July.

Peter Neufeld, co-founder of the Innocence Project, said the FBI's hair analysis in that period was "a complete disaster" but praised the bureau and the Justice Department for collaborating in the review. **REUTERS**

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EU calls for emergency talks after 700 migrants drown off Libya coast

Boat. It is believed to have capsized when the migrants shifted to one side of the overcrowded vessel.

Turkish coast guards rescue the migrants after a migrant boat sinks off southwestern Turkey. / GETTY IMAGES

As many as 700 people were feared dead after a fishing boat packed with migrants capsized off the Libyan coast overnight in what officials said may be the Mediterranean's worst disaster as thousands flee poverty and war to Europe.

Top officials in Europe, whose recently downsized border protection program has been criticized by international aid groups, said urgent action was needed. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said foreign ministers would discuss the issue at a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday.

If confirmed, the death toll would bring to 1,500 the total number of dead since the beginning of the year resulting from the flow of migrants seeking to flee insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Only last week, around 400 migrants were reported to have died attempting to reach Italy from Libya when their boat capsized.

On Sunday, 28 people were rescued and 24 bodies recovered from the 20 meter-long vessel, which sank around 70 miles from the Libyan coast, south of the southern Italian island of Lampedusa, the Italian coast guard said.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said later that around 50 people had been rescued of the 700 reported to be on board.

French President Francois Hollande said the EU had to do more, telling Canal+ television that rescue and disaster prevention efforts needed "more boats, more over flights and a much more intense battle against people trafficking."

Quoted

"A tragedy is unfolding in the Mediterranean, and if the EU and the world continue to close their eyes, it will be judged in the harshest terms as it was judged in the past when it closed its eyes to genocides when the comfortable did nothing." Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat

Capsized boat south of Lampedusa Island

This year

1,500

If the death toll is confirmed, it will bring to 1,500 the total number of people who died this year seeking to reach Europe.

Quoted

"They are literally trying to find people alive among the dead floating in the water."
Muscat

Turkish coast guards rescue the migrants after a migrant boat sinks off southwestern Turkey. / GETTY IMAGES

"More EU countries must take responsibility for the refugee situation," said Sweden's Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson, who called for an expansion of the EU's Triton border protection program, which only operates within 30 miles of the Italian coast.

The previous search and rescue operation, "Mare Nostrum," was canceled last year because of the cost and because some politicians said it encouraged migrants to depart by raising their hopes of being rescued.

"This disaster confirms how urgent it is to restore a robust rescue-at-sea operation and establish credible legal avenues to reach Europe," said UNHCR head Antonio Guterres.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi called for an emergency meeting of European Union leaders this week, saying, "We cannot remain insensitive when every day there is a massacre in the Mediterranean." REUTERS

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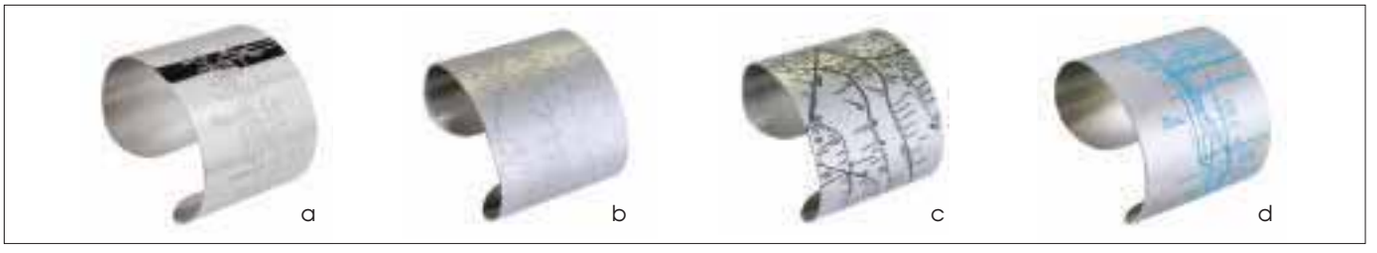

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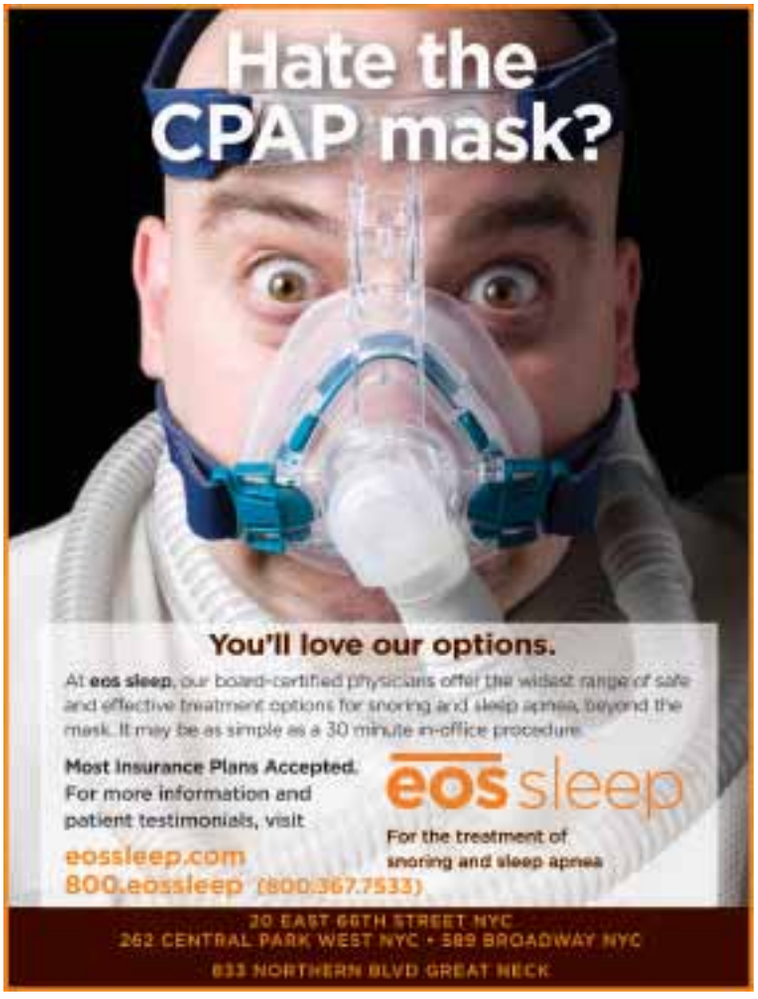
Springtime colors run bright in Paris

Revelers celebrate their arrival by throwing colorful chalk powder after taking part in the second Parisian edition of the "Color Run" in Paris, France, on Sunday. The initiative takes place in cities around the world. / GETTY IMAGES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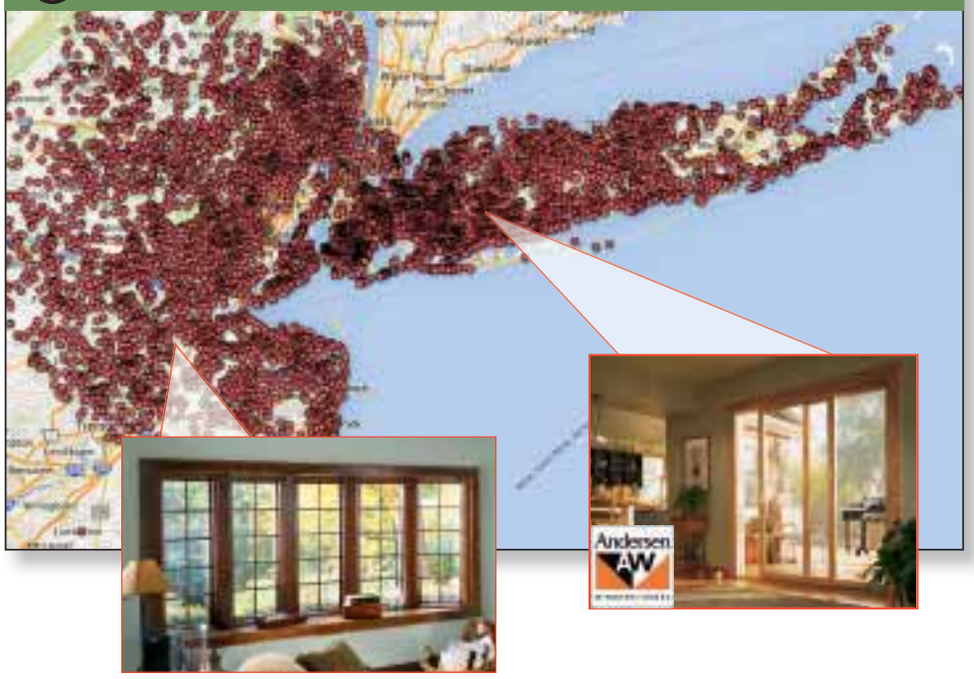

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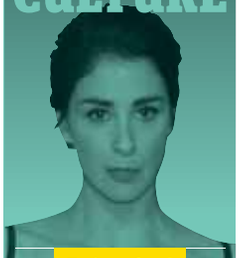
2 CULTURE



Twitter feed

Today, Ken Jennings has a great idea, Sarah Silverman is accepting new cultural norms and Olivia Wilde is self-impressed.

@KenJennings: BLACK MIRROR episode idea: Burgess Meredith sits down happily with a Kindle full of books...only to find his battery is at 1%

@SarahKSilverman: It's fun to let yourself absorb new cultures like I went to England for 2 wks & I'm already brushing my teeth way less

@oliviawilde: I just made a breakfast sandwich and then stood back in awe like I had discovered the cure for blindness. #smallvictories #lowstandards

1 Miley Cyrus loves rock 'n' roll, as well as Joan Jett

Miley Cyrus sang some rock 'n' roll. Ignore the pasties.
ALL IMAGES GETTY IMAGES

Miley Cyrus wore nipple pasties at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame ceremony Saturday. Are you shocked? Of course you are! You'll also likely break a monocle reading her intro for inductees Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. "I'm going to start off this induction with the first time I wanted to have sex with Joan Jett," Cyrus told a packed house while wearing another, pastie-less dress. But more shocking is that the anecdote was less salacious than sincere. "We were in her bathroom, and we were smoking and just talking, and this was one of the moments in my life where I wanted to be as present and absorb everything that she said to me," Cyrus says. "Joan's music, her activism, who she is — in all of our lives, all of us are going to experience people who try to tell us who to be and what to be. F— those people!"

2 Ariana Grande's dad acts like a creepy dad

It's one thing for Big Sean to make a naughty double entendre about his thing with Ariana Grande. It's another for her dad to get involved and act, well, like a dad. Big Sean had posted a picture to Instagram of him with a Detroit Tigers cap, writing: "I gave her that D… #Detroit." Hello, nurse! Then her dad, Edward Butera, got involved, writing in the comments section, "that D. better be Detroit Sean." Not since the old "Saturday Night Live" sketch with Steven Seagal as a pop scaring his daughter's date has a guy's interaction with a girl's father been this awkward and unfunny.

THE WORD

Matt Prigge takes on the world of gossip.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Vergara will have the last laugh.

3 Sofia Vergara holding ex's frozen embryos 'indefinitely'

Perhaps your relations with an old flame are frayed, but at least they're not as weird as the one between Sofia Vergara and ex Nick Loeb. Loeb has been saying she destroyed some frozen embryos they might have used. But Vergara is saying otherwise. "The claims made against Sofia Vergara by Nick Loeb are uncredible and hold no merit," her attorney, Fred Silberberg, told People. "Vergara, who has happily moved on with her life, is content to leave the embryos frozen indefinitely as she has no desire to have children with her ex, which should be understandable given the circumstances." So she's keeping them just to prove she doesn't care? That's kind of badass.

Daily video

Celebs name first films that made them cry

Late last week someone recut Matthew McConaughey's crying jag from "Interstellar" so it looked like he was weeping at the new "Star Wars VII" trailer. Now there's a video of famous people reminiscing on the films that made them cry. Daniel Radcliffe reveals he shed

some for "Life is Beautiful" and both Lee Daniels and Oprah Winfrey got misty over "Love Story." Lupita Nyong'o went not with a film but with a Charlie Brown special, in which Linus loses his blanket.

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‘IT FOLLOWS’ LEADS AN INDIE HORROR TREND

Essie Davis gave one of last year’s best performances in “The Babadook.” / IFC FILMS

Horror

‘The Babadook’

Netflix Instant

We are suddenly amidst an indie horror renaissance, where skilled and tiny scarefests, most notably “It Follows,” actually cross over into the mainstream. Jennifer Kent’s Australian ghost movie never cracked the national top ten box office winners this past winter, but it’s equally intense. In fact, it’s debatably more nerve-racking before a mega-creepy specter starts skulking about the creaky home of a widow (Essie Davis) and her young son (Noah Wiseman). That’s because the boy has become abruptly unhinged, prone to loud, uncontrollable freak-out sessions, much to the dismay of his grieving and already on-edge mom. Viewers’ nerves get frayed, and then comes a scary ghost.

Thriller

“BOUND” PROVIDED

‘Bound’

Netflix Instant

The Wachowskis are in the doghouse, having made three bombs in a row (recently “Jupiter Ascending”). But they can do whatever they please because of their debut: a neo-noir that got attention because its heroes (Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon) were lesbians, but it earned praise because it was an immaculately sculpted nail-biter.

Documentary

‘Winnebago Man’

Netflix Instant

What’s fascinating about this doc, in which an enterprising filmmaker tracks down a guy who became Internet-famous for an old video where he flips out while shooting a commercial, isn’t the guy himself. It’s watching director Ben Steinbauer realize he’s in over his head. Not only does his subject prove irascible, but he’s suddenly stuck with an ethical dilemma on how to handle someone who never wanted fame.

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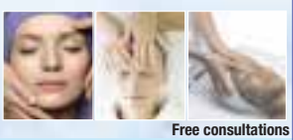

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One teen's fight against her so-called destiny

Coming of age. Author Aisha Saeed tells us about her harrowing, moving debut novel.

As a teenager growing up in Florida in the late '90s, the Pakistani-American writer Aisha Saeed knew better than to try to do certain things some of her friends took for granted. "I didn't even ask about going to prom," she says. "I wasn't allowed to have a boyfriend."

But for other friends, the restrictions went even deeper. Saeed weaves some of their stories into her book.

Arranged marriages

"I had a friend, and when we were 14, she said to me, 'I have a secret,'" Saeed says. "And the secret was that she had a fiance who was 10 years older. At the time, I didn't know what it meant, and I thought it was like having a boyfriend."

Aisha Saeed / PROVIDED

When her friend turned 18, and the wedding day approached, "she didn't want to do it," recalls Saeed, now 35. "But she was afraid her parents were going to disown her. I had a lot of friends, and none of them really went to college because they got married instead."

Watching her friends go through these experiences (and several divorces) inspired "Written in the Stars." In the novel, 17-year-old Naila, a college-bound senior with a promising future, is whisked off to Pakistan when her family discovers she secretly had a boyfriend.

Overcoming your 'destiny'

Naila eventually escapes — though she suffers physical and emotional scars from the ordeal.

"The title of the book is 'Written in the Stars' because that's just how it is — it's kismet, it's destiny," Saeed says. "But just because something bad happens to you, that doesn't mean that's your [ultimate] destiny. You just have to fight a little bit more."

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Alicia Vikander does the robot

Interview. With "Ex Machina," a new "It" girl gets to do a brainy sci-fi film.

In "Ex Machina," Alicia Vikander plays a robot with a human face. / A24

Swedish actress Alicia Vikander is currently in "It" girl mode, parlaying acclaimed performances in "Pure" and "A Royal Affair" — as well as the new "Ex Machina," in which she plays a robot with revolutionary A.I. capabilities — into a stream of big films. In addition to Guy Ritchie's "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." there's "Adam Jones" with Bradley Cooper and Emma Thompson and "The Danish Girl" opposite Eddie Redmayne, and more.

"Ex Machina" is an unusual way to do a sci-fi film. It's very stripped-down.
It's a chamber piece. To be able to have such long scenes is rare. Often you start a scene, you start to get into it, and then it's over. You find a certain path you hadn't taken in another take. In this film, you really had the chance to execute whatever new influences or directions you found. Every single take turned out to be different. You try to open a new door, and when you open that door, you're going in another direction.

The question is whether your robotic character genuinely thinks and feels independently of her programming. How did you approach that as an actor?
With any part, even when you're trying to create a new character, you can at least relate to the fact that they're human. With this, you couldn't even do that. I figured that, because they were questioning whether she was real, her maker must have come very far [in programming her]. I wanted her to come very close to that idea, and I was wondering what makes people believe she is a real girl. Alex [Garland, the writer-director] was very open about it. I basically had a blank sheet. He let me try different ways of moving and different voices. It was one of those roles you really want because you're quite terrified and scared of taking it on, but you do get to try whatever you want.

ALICIA VIKANDER
GETTY IMAGES

Let's dance

How did you think about physically portraying Ava?

I was probably unconsciously using my dance background. I had years of training, so that is a part of me. I grew up moving and knowing how physicality reads. That's what you learn in ballet school. We created our own pieces and choreographed them from the age of 12, so you know from an outside perspective what things read like. It was also a nice tool to have, once I found what Ava moved like. When I would get into that posture, that would be a great way to get into the character, too. It's like using an accent. If you just learn that accent, you become something quite different.

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DAENERYS HAS A REUNION

"Thrones" on the Web

WINTER IS COMING

As the editor-in-chief for Winter Is Coming, Dan Selcke spends his time writing about the latest "Game of Thrones" news and preparing for the long night that will have no end.

Read more of him at **Winteriscoming.net.**

The second episode of this season of "Game of Thrones," "The House of Black and White," continued the premiere's focus on tying up loose ends and setting up the conflicts to come. "Game of Thrones" is definitely building toward something, and knowing this show, it's probably something bloody.

Episode MVPs

After sitting the premiere out, Arya Stark arrived in Braavos and gained admittance to the House of Black and White, where she'll learn from an old friend how to be the best little assassin she can be. However, the stars of her section were the gorgeous exterior shots of Braavos, a crisscrossing network of dirty canals under a cloud-covered sky.

The show continued to flaunt its expanded production budget when Brienne of Tarth, who finally tracked down Sansa Stark only to have the young woman refuse her offer of help, participated in a thrillingly choreographed chase on horseback. Before, "Game of Thrones" had to space these displays of opulence out, but a beautifully photographed visit from one of Daenerys' wayward dragons toward the end of the hour proved that the show is now the visual equal of any Hollywood blockbuster.

Finally, at the Wall, Jon Snow was elected Lord Commander of the Night's Watch thanks to some campaigning by Sam. His new position forces him into a close working relationship with Stannis Baratheon, whose arrival has invigorated what used to be one of the more inconsistent storylines.

The Mother of Dragons makes time for some family bonding. / HBO

Questions for next week

This episode gave us our first glimpse of Dorne, the arid homeland of fan favorite Oberyn Martell. We'll be seeing a lot more of it soon, as Jaime Lannister intends to smuggle himself into the country to retrieve his daughter Myrcella, who was shipped there back in Season 2. Producers have hinted that this season will break away from George R.R. Martin's novels, and Jaime's arc certainly looks nothing like his activities in the books. The new direction makes some fans nervous, but it's also exciting since no one can honestly say they know what's coming.

Battles ahead

Crazy rumor corner

According to an article in the New Zealand Herald, Brienne (Gwendoline Christie) may soon fight Gregor "The Mountain" Clegane, best remembered for crushing Oberyn Martell's skull with his bare hands last year. The Herald spoke with Christie about the coming season, but this information didn't come by way of a direct quote from her, so take it with a grain of salt.

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Are online courses right for you?

We weigh the pros and cons.

JULIA WEST
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Taking classes in your kitchen has its advantages — and drawbacks. ISTOCK

It's no surprise that online college courses are quickly gaining popularity. Between hectic schedules, multiple jobs and family responsibilities, classes that offer some flexibility are in high demand. But are they the right route for your collegiate goals?

It's important to first consider what it takes to succeed at online learning. Having self-discipline, staying motivated and being extremely organized are key, according to Clara Piloto, director of global programs at MIT Professional Education. A decent grasp of technology is also a bonus.

Ralph Rogers, the executive vice president of academic affairs at Nova Southeastern University, agrees. "Maintaining a regular schedule to

Continued on page 20

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Four thoughts every new grad has had while job hunting

Don't get discouraged, a great job is out there.

Talentegg.com is a job board and online career resource for college students and recent graduates.

TalentEgg

We've all been there: sifting through what seems like an endless sea of job postings. It can be frustrating, to say the least. We've got some helpful advice about the questions all new grads are probably asking themselves right now.

It's not just you — everyone wonders if they are qualified for the job. ISTOCK

1 "Am I really good enough to apply for this job?"
Realistically speaking, you're probably not perfect for the job. But chances are, the other candidates who apply are likely in the same boat. Keep in mind that you also have qualities that may be useful to the role that the recruiter may not have even considered — it's up to you to show them you can do it.

2 "These recruiters are probably rolling in candidates 100 times more qualified than me."
New grads tend to think that recruiters always have a ton of qualified candidates vying for their roles. While it may feel like the odds aren't in your favor, you never know unless you apply.

3 "I should pump out 10 more cover letters today."
While it's important to write a customized cover letter for each application you send out, don't feel like you need to craft each one from scratch. Consider creating a template and filling in the employer's name in each empty field. Ensure there is at least one paragraph left open where you can express your knowledge about that company — as long as it shows you've done your research, your cover letter is doing its job.

4 "Seriously, where am I supposed to get five years of experience for an entry-level job?"
There's a reason certain jobs need experienced candidates. When you're just starting out, it's important to keep your eyes open. You might not start off in your target industry, so try getting an entry-level position that will help you develop related skills that can eventually help you get the job you want.

Continued from page 19

work on your studies is crucial and takes discipline," he says.

We asked Rogers what students thinking about online education should consider before singing up.

Look at your other commitments

Personal situations can strain a student's ability to commit to coursework. For those with responsibilities outside of school, online courses are often a great alternative. "Full-time workers or students with child care responsibilities are typical of those who benefit from studying at times convenient to them," explains Rogers. "[Online courses are] especially helpful if you travel a lot for work, have a family, disability or are in the armed forces," adds Piloto.

You won't be alone

Piloto adds that educators are aware of this social itch and are working to add more of a social aspect to online learning as a way to engage students. "Technology, pedagogy and better understanding of learning styles are leading to a more personalized approach to education," says Rogers. With the right balance of technology, social interactions and discipline, online learning may be just the ticket for the right student.

How do you learn best?

Acknowledging that you're not quite cut out for online classes is important. "Learning is basically a social activity," says Piloto. "Many learners get energized by being in class — interacting physically with other learners by touching, holding and doing." If this learning style works best for you, online courses may not be the smartest move.

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You can make any school your dream school

Didn't get into your top choice? Here's what you should do.

JOANNE REINARD
metronewyork
letters@metro.us

We all know that not getting into your so-called dream college can be crushing, but educational consultant Kristin M. White has a message to high school seniors everywhere: It's possible to turn any school you go to into a fantastic experience.

We asked White, the author of the new book "It's the Student, Not the College," for her tips for high school seniors currently figuring out where to enroll this fall.

What should you do if you don't get into your dream school?

"It doesn't matter what college you go to; it's really what you make of it," White stresses. She notes in her book that students who get the same grades (regardless of where they went to school) usually end up getting the same job opportunities. "A lot of students have this idea of a dream college and think it will affect their future or get them a better experience than another college, but studies have shown that it really doesn't matter."

What should students consider when making their final decision?

"Students should find a financial fit to make sure that they do not take on too much debt," says White. Potential students should also look at the course catalog and try to imagine what classes they'd be interested in. It's important, she says, "to focus on choosing the right classes" for your interests.

Don't freak out if you don't get into your first choice. ISTOCK

How can students get over the fact that they didn't get into their first choice?

White recommends that students focus on all of the good things about the school they end up choosing. "Go on another campus visit or log on to the school's Facebook group," she advises. "Look at the things they have for new students."

Once you are actually on campus, she recommends fully throwing yourself into student life. "Go visit your professors [during office hours] and get out of your comfort zone by meeting unexpected people, like those from different countries."

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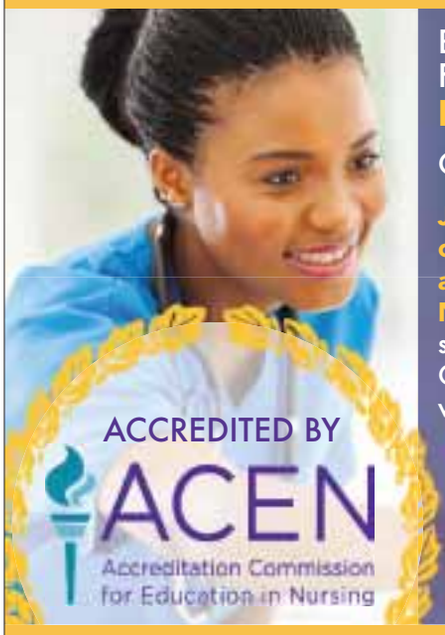

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How a bad boss can teach you valuable career lessons

Self-discipline and working independently are two of the skills you can learn from a bad boss. ISTOCK

Even inept supervisors can influence your path.

MEGHAN POOLE
metronewyork
letters@metro.us

While everyone wishes otherwise, almost everyone reading this will have to work for a bad boss at some point in his or her life. But author Merritt Watts has a provocative theory about the impact of bad bosses on younger workers — and that's that those workers will benefit in the long run.

Watts' latest book, "First Jobs: True Tales of Bad Bosses, Quirky Coworkers, Big Breaks, and Small Paychecks," compiles 50 stories (good and bad) about the various first jobs a wide variety of Americans have had over the years.

We caught up with Watts to ask her why it is important to stick it out and work with bad bosses at a first job.

You'll learn valuable lessons

"Having a bad boss at your first job is not going to derail your entire career," Watts points out. "It's teaching you one of the most important things in the workforce, which is how to deal with people. When you have a bad boss, you're forced to make it work, so I would arguably say that this is one of the most important skills you can learn," she says.

It will help you grow

It's a trial by fire

"Almost everyone has been there, and you have to realize that this is your first relationship with someone who is not your parent and not your teacher, and they just want the job done," she says. "Think of it as a rite of passage and a way to bond with your co-workers."

"As teenagers, your brain goes through this huge neurological development, and you're forming new connections, so you're learning frontal lobe skills, such as calming yourself down when you're really mad or how to have a confrontational conversation with someone without blowing up," Watts explains. "So if you're in this position for emotional growth, but you're not putting yourself in situations where you're forced to deal with it, then you're not going to acquire that skill, and that's going to haunt you forever," she adds.

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Horoscope

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
There is so much going on that you may have trouble keeping up. You will come out ahead if you keep your priorities straight.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
Delays will ensue if you need to deal with governmental agencies. Keep your important documents in order if you want to save yourself time.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
Groups that you feel strongly about will benefit from your input. Don't be surprised if you are asked to assume a leadership role.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
You will waste time if you get caught up in a verbal battle. Be an observer, not a participant. Keep out of the line of fire.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Share your ideas. You will gain ground over your competitors if you are assertive. Take advantage of every opportunity.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
You have a heart of gold, but you mustn't donate to every cause or organization that approaches you. The best investment you can make is in yourself.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You will be oversensitive regarding personal matters. Don't let this get you down. Patience will help you ride out the storm.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 There is money to be made. Going the extra mile at work will be worth the effort. You will be recognized for your discipline.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If there is something you have been wondering about or deliberating, take the plunge. You will probably wish you had done so sooner.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Personal problems will upset you. Be careful not to judge others or take sides. Remain neutral until all the facts are in.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
Reconnect. A call or email will help to strengthen the bonds between you. A minor windfall or debt repayment is forthcoming.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
Change is in the air. With your intuition and dedication, you will be in an ideal position to take advantage of an opportunity that lies ahead. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		3			6	5		
		4		3				7
	7	1					3	4
			7	6	4			5
4				5				2
7			2	1	8			
2	3					9	5	
1				8		4		
		5	1			6		

	4		8			9		
		2	6	5				4
6	1		4					5
		8	9				3	
			7	2	8			
	5				3	8		
5					1		9	6
9				8	4	1		
		1			6		4	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Minimum wage, supersize dreams

Yes, $7.25 is too low for most people and the fact that they can't work a 40-hour week is bad also, but $15! It will never happen. I can only assume they started ridiculously high to have some bargaining room. McDonald's has said they are raising the minimum to $10. That is a good compromise and one that most likely will not change. There are people in professional jobs who have training who are making $15 and they should be due to their training, but the fast-food workers are really living in a dream world if they think $15 is ever going to happen. MICHAEL WHITE

Pot is no crime

April 20 as National Pot Day makes sense. Consumption of marijuana for both medical and recreational use is part of mainstream America, transcending generations. Creative entrepreneurs will always provide the citizens' desire, regardless of government approval. Consumers have voted with their dollars, making marijuana consumption a multibillion-dollar enterprise today. Legalize it and add a sales tax. Revenues will more than cover the costs of any abuse.
LARRY PENNER, VIA EMAIL

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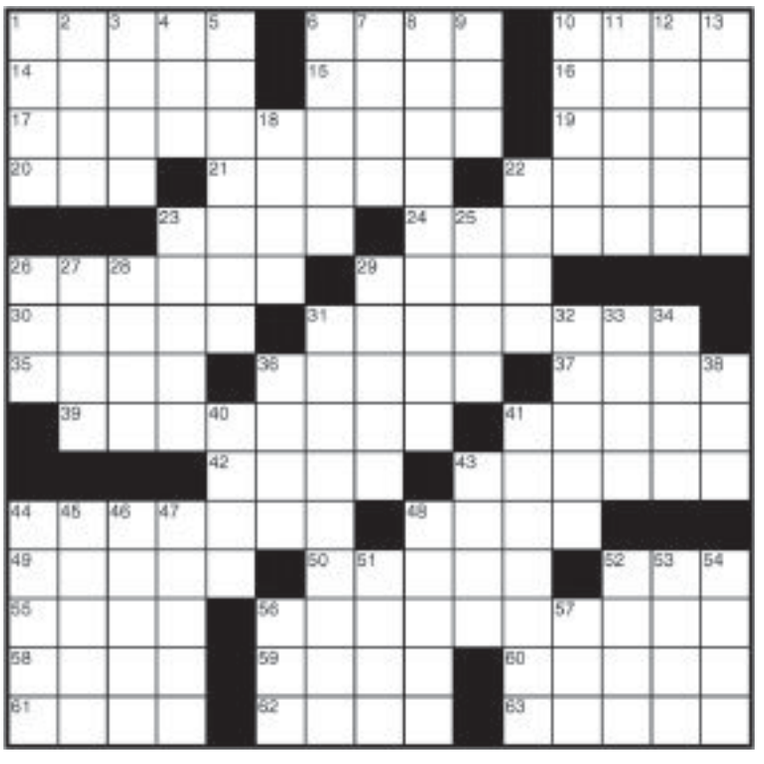
Crossword

Across
1 Fishtailed
6 Long-distance line
10 Aspen transport (hyph.)
14 Take the podium
15 Experts
16 Diva — Ponselle
17 Type of sausage
19 Appliance
20 Thing on a ring
21 Thesaurus man
22 Pond growth
23 Ho Chi —
24 Gorges formed by a river
26 Purpose
29 Germinated grain
30 Flattened bottle
31 Very unpopular
35 Berets
36 Dossiers
37 Cable car
39 Farmers' attics
41 Pale yellow
42 Louts
43 Threw the rider
44 Kidney stones
48 Hogshead
49 Back biters?
50 Fill the seams
52 Impress and then some
55 Alan or Cheryl
56 Big buzzers
58 Love, to Picasso
59 — mater
60 Weight deductions
61 Answering machine sound
62 Nefertiti's god
63 Cure salmon

Down
1 Egg part
2 Indy champ — Luyendyk
3 Like permed hair
4 Dog days in Dijon
5 Oil rig feature
6 Novelist Evelyn —
7 Ranch measure
8 Legal precedents (2 wds.)
9 Mach 1 exceeder
10 Honestly!
11 Beatnik's drum
12 Like pagodas
13 Hourly fees
18 Is obstinate
22 Con
23 Topsy-turvy
25 Yodeler's perch
26 Repeatedly
27 Humdrum
28 "She's a Bad Mama —"
29 Turns to slush
31 No piece of cake
32 Pile up
33 Viking name
34 Mental fog
36 Colt or filly
38 Glove sz.
40 Costello and Rawls
41 Old firearms
43 Pet toy
44 B, in music (hyph.)
45 Texas tourist site
46 Enticed (2 wds.)
47 Tight-knit team
48 Cigar type
51 Hunter's need
52 Dynamic prefix
53 Year fraction
54 To be, to Brutus
56 Moo companion
57 Thud

Weekend's answer



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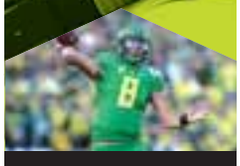
3 SPORTS

MLB

Harvey, Mets edge Miami

Matt Harvey impoved to 3-0 on the young season while the Mets improved to 10-3 as a team as they toppled the Marlins, 7-6, Sunday at Citi Field. Harvey received plenty of run support thanks to a big Mets fourth inning as Daniel Murphy, Juan Lagares, Ruben Tejada and Travis d'Arnaud all knocked in runs. Harvey worked six innings and gave up four earned runs on eight hits while striking out seven. The Mets are off today before starting a series against the Braves at Citi Field beginning Tuesday.



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Rangers suddenly with an old-fashioned Crosby issue

NHL. The Rangers are in Pittsburgh tonight to take on the Pens and a rejuventated Sid.

Sidney Crosby registered 84 points this season. / GETTY IMAGES

So there was Sidney Crosby, being cross-examined by a media throng while sitting at his stall inside the visiting dressing room at Madison Square Garden a little after 11 o'clock Saturday night.

The topic of the give-and-take was the consensus best player in the world's offensive production in the Stanley Cup playoffs, and against the Rangers in particular.

Nothing new there. Crosby has been answering questions about his lack of tangible results for a few springs, as he only had one goal to his name in the last 19 playoff games he played in. Against the Rangers in particular, he only found the back of the net once in 13 playoff games. The numbers were staggering and incomprehensible.

Key word: were.

For on this night, the underlying message to the questions of Crosby had changed. Significantly. Instead of being asked why he was unable to produce, he was being asked how it felt to produce.

"It's good to get rewarded," Crosby said after the Penguins evened the Metropolitan Division semi-finals at one game apiece with a 4-3 win over the Rangers.

Centering Patric Hornqvist and Chris Kunitz on Pittsburgh's top line, Crosby finished with two goals and three shots on goal in 17:28 of ice time, numbers that don't begin to detail the quality of his play.

Seemingly on every shift, Crosby found himself weaving all over the Garden's ice, the puck on his blade. His presence forced the Rangers to back off, which allowed his linemates room to operate.

"Sometimes in the playoffs you play well and you don't always get the result you want," Crosby said. "I thought we continued from the end of [Game 1]. I thought we were more aggressive toward the end of the last game, and we proved that."

While Crosby is correct — the Penguins attacked the Rangers in the third period of Game 1 and pressed when presented opportunities in Game 2 — this isn't the same squad that was among the NHL's preeminent offensive squads.

"We're still searching for good offensive output without giving up anything defensively," Penguins head coach Mike Johnston said.

DENIS GORMAN
@DenisGorman
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The slate

A look at what's on tap for the Rangers:

- Game 3 at Penguins, today, 7 p.m., MSG
- Game 4 at Penguins, Wednesday, 7 p.m., MSG
- Game 5 at Rangers, Friday, TBD

NHL playoffs

Islanders grab series lead with overtime win

John Tavares put an end to things before they got out of hand. The Islanders center beat Braden Holtby off a rebound just 15 seconds into overtime Sunday afternoon at Nassau Coliseum, giving his team a 2-1 victory and a 2-1 series lead over the Washington Capitals.

"As soon as I saw [Nick] Leddy get it at the point, I just thought, 'get to the net and beat my guy," Tavares said about the game-winner to NewYorkIslanders.com. "The puck came to me and I was able to beat Holtby back to the post."

John Tavares celebrates his game-winner Sunday. / GETTY IMAGES

The Capitals held the momentum heading into the brief extra session as Nicklas Backstrom went top shelf, with Alexander Ovechkin posted right in front of the net, to beat Jaroslav Halak at the 13:54 mark of the third period. Other than that lapse, Halak was superb for the Islanders as he blocked 24 Washington offerings.

Kyle Okposo tallied the only regulation goal for the Isles with a slap shot at the 12:37 mark of the second period. New York put plenty of pressure on Holtby throughout, outshooting the Capitals, 42-25.

Fans at the Coliseum chanted: "Can you hear us?" toward Ovechkin often, a direct reference to the Russian saying that the Caps' Verizon Center was a louder building than that of the soon-to-be vacated Coliseum. The Islanders and Caps will play Game 4 of their series Tuesday (7:30 p.m., MSG+). **MATT BURKE**

NBA

JOE JOHNSON
GETTY IMAGES

Too little, too late for Nets

The Nets made a late charge Sunday night in Atlanta, but fell short in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference quarterfinals series against the No. 1-seeded Hawks as they fell, 99-92. Atlanta jumped out to a 32-20 lead after one quarter but the Nets posted 30 points in the fourth quarter to climb back into it. Joe Johnson and Brook Lopez led the Nets with 17 points apiece. Kyle Korver led Atlanta with 21 points. **MATT BURKE**

NFL

It's official: Tebow time in Philadelphia

Tim Tebow and Mark Sanchez are together again. The two former Jets are both now Eagles after Tebow signed a one-year deal with Philly on Sunday night. The Eagles' offseason program starts today and the lightning rod QB is expected to be present. **MATT BURKE**

HARVEY MAKING ANGUISHED METS FANS 'BELIEVE' AGAIN

OPINION

MARC MALUSIS

MARCMALUSIS

Marc Malusis is a columnist for Metro New York and a host on WFAN and CBS Sports Radio.

Matt Harvey is 3-0 so far in 2015. / GETTY IMAGES

It is real and it is tangible. As the Mets announced on Saturday evening that their game on Sunday was a sellout, you realize the impact of Matt Harvey.

In this city, where there are so many distractions, it is the rare athlete who can capture the imagination of THIS CITY with so many things going on. That is exactly what Matt Harvey has done. With blustery confidence, he carries the weight of a franchise on his broad shoulders. He relishes the attention and the opportunity that is in front of him, which is so refreshing. Simply, he wants to be great and understands the sacrifice that comes along with it.

I was too young to appreciate and bear witness to when Doc Gooden became Doctor K in 1984 when he had 276 strikeouts in 218 innings of work. The beginning was really a five game stretch in '84 when he pitched 44 innings, striking out 58 and registered a 0.82 ERA. And we all know what happened in 1986 as the Mets won the World Series. That was then and this is now.

Enter Matt Harvey. Every day that he throws is now a holiday in these parts, and for good reason. It's Harvey Day!

I can't imagine the feeling or the pressure when you carry all the hopes of a fan base on your right arm. Like an old-fashioned church revival, Harvey has his believers and they show up in droves. They want to bear witness to his brilliance. They want to believe again, and just like a bible-thumping preacher, Harvey helps ease their pain.

You have to remember this fan base has been beaten down. They are tired of hearing of financial restrictions and the impact of Bernie Madoff. They are tired of waiting for next year when next year always seems to be a few years away. They are tired of seeing this town painted in Yankees pinstripes. They are tired of being sold on the individual story — whether it be Jose Reyes and the batting title or R.A. Dickey and his Cy Young season. It is 2015 and the Mets have not had a winning season since 2008. They have not had a winning record at home since 2010.

The Mets fan has witnessed a lot of bad baseball and losing baseball for far too long. Say it with me, "I believe."

I believe that Harvey will lead the renaissance of the Mets. The Tommy John surgery is now in the rearview mirror. Sandy Alderson can be the subject of a book titled "Baseball Maverick: How Sandy Alderson Revolutionized Baseball and Revived the Mets." No matter. The revival began when Omar Minaya selected Harvey with the 7th overall pick in the 2010 MLB draft. We did not know it then. We know it now.

So here's to Matt Harvey, the man who sells out Citi Field and the man who makes the most hardened Mets fan believe that 2015 is finally the year. Winning summer days and fall nights are ahead of us. I believe.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of Pixel & Dot Letterpress, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/17/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC c/o United States Corporation Agents,Inc. 7014 13th Ave., Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Public Sale in accordance with New York City Administrative Code as required by §§20- 282 and 20-283, the following public auction will take place: Chrono24: Patek Philippe & Rolex Only and Chrono24: Modern & Vintage Timepieces, April 22, 2015, 6pm and 7:30pm EDT, New York, Auction No. 218/219, NYC Auction House License Number: 2017571-DCA. Auctionata reserves the right to cancel the sale at any time for any reason.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, No. 1284993 for, Liquor, Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Beer & Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 785 Flatbush Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11226 for on-premises consumption. Melany Restaurant Inc.

Notice of Formation of Meliki Hurd Entertainment LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secy. of State (SSNY) on 02/24/2015. Location: Kings County. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail copy of process served against the LLC to Registered Agent: c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 701413th Avenue, Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11238. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of 5 Star Global, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/29/2014. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC c/o 276 Fifth Ave, Suite 704, New York, NY 10001-4527 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1284704, for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Chinese Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 7116 18th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11204, for on-premise consumption. United Wong Restaurant, Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number TBA, for Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 16 East 46th Street, New York, NY 10017, for on-premises consumption. WOLF GOTHAM, LLC.

A nonprofit organization in Brooklyn is seeking sealed bids for sales and installation of security related enhancements are now being accepted. The project includes: installation of a security camera system; installation of an access control and ID system; installation of perimeter security lighting; installation of blast resistant film or exterior glazing.

Selection criteria will be based on knowledge of surveillance and security, adherence to work schedule, prior experience and references, cost. Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting us at secururity.system.bids@gmail.com

All interested firms will be required to provide company name, address, primary contact name, telephone, and email address when requesting bid documents.

Bids must be delivered in person or by messenger in a sealed envelope. Bids submitted via USPS or commercial package delivery services such as UPS or FedEx will not be considered. A receipt will be provided to the person delivering the bid package.

Bids will be accepted until 4:00 PM on Tuesday April 28th, 2015.

All bids will be opened at noon on Wednesday, April 29th, 2015.
Work is to commence by May 11, 2015 and be completed by 8/21/2015.

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